

SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1949

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

M. B. H. CHURCHILL, M.S.I.A.,
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Sunderland Rural District Council

1949.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR G. C. PARK, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR REV. W. J. GOUNDRY.

Coun.	W. P. BEWICK.	Coun.	J. MURPHY.
„	J. H. BROWN.	„	J. NORMAN.
„	J. CUMMINGS.	„	G. E. B.
„	J. DAVISON.	„	PERFREMENT.
„	J. R. DOUGLASS.	„	MRS. D. RIDLEY.
„	T. EMMERSON.	„	MRS. E. W.
„	J. A. HARDY.	„	THOMPSON, J.P.
		„	R. N. TROTTER.
		„	A. TURNBULL.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR J. H. BROWN.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Council Offices,

1, The Esplanade.

Sunderland.

Officials :

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : M. B. H. CHURCHILL,
M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : J. P. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS W. M. YOUNG.

Junior Clerk : MISS C. CAIRNS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Sunderland Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby present my ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district, together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

1949 has seen changes regarding the Isolation Hospital and the control of Infectious Diseases. Our Hospital which had been an Institution for the treatment of Tuberculosis and Infectious Disease cases for over 50 years, was finally taken over, in February of this year, by the Hospital Management Committee. From the latter date, I carried on with the administration of the Hospital and the treatment of the patients, until the end of September.

I am happy to state that compared with other districts, we have escaped any serious epidemic. In April, the local doctors were advised of the possibility of the spread of Asiatic Smallpox; we escaped any such visitation. In May, contacts of Smallpox were visited and supervised, again no infection occurred.

During August of this year, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Regional Hospital Board, set aside beds for the nursing of Acute Poliomyelitis cases at the following hospitals :—

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Lanchester Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lanchester.
West Lane Infectious Diseases Hospital, Middles-
brough.

Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital, Carlisle.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified but as a precaution, bills were printed showing the public how the disease is spread, the symptoms, signs and means of prevention.

Towards the end of the year, other contacts of Typhoid and Smallpox were visited, again without any outbreaks in this district.

The estimated mid-year population for 1949, given by the Registrar General, is 25,220, this shows an increase of 630 compared with last year's figure which was 24,590.

A clean food campaign was launched after midsummer. Letters explaining Diseases spread by contamination, showing methods for the prevention of Disease and asking for the co-operation of all who handle food, together with copies of the basic code of practice for food Industries are being prepared, to be sent out to all food traders in the district. Mr. Churchill has been very active in this matter, the results of which should show fruit in the near future.

Housing and Health—Cases of overcrowding reported, especially those associated with Tuberculosis were given serious consideration by the Health Committee and certain recommendations made.

In some cases, Local Practitioners requested the help of the Health Department to get people who could not receive adequate medical treatment in their homes, into hospital. These cases were investigated and admission was effected through the local Hospital Management Committee on the recommendation of the Regional Hospital Board.

The Death Rate shows an increase of slightly over 1— as compared with last year. This is owing to the fact that the Area Comparability Factor is now in use. The latter takes into account, movement of population, boundaries and trades. As far as this district is concerned the three great killing diseases are Heart, Arterial Degeneration and Cancer, as in the majority of other Districts. In this area Heart disease shows an increase compared to last year from 74 to 101 and Haemorrhage of the brain from 27 to 43 and Cancer a little less. Although the majority of the Cardiac cases were over the allotted span of three score years and ten, one might consider the possibility of the strain of the War years, of the heightened blood pressure and thus the favouring of Heart failure.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times during the past year.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
July, 1950.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	8,286 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1949	25,220
Number of inhabited houses at 31st Dec., 1949	7,242
Rateable Value	£116,088
Sum represented by penny rate	£437

Births and Birth-Rate.

The nett number of births in the district was 496.

The sex and legitimacy classification is shown thus :—

LIVE BIRTHS :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	259	228	487	} 496
Illegitimate	3	6	9	

The birth-rate per thousand of the estimated population is 18.9, a little above the rate per thousand of the total population for England and Wales which is 16.7

STILL-BIRTHS :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	1	3	4	} 4
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

During the year there were 4 still-births in the district. The still-birth rate of the population is 0.16 per thousand, a marked decrease against the figures recorded for 1948, viz., 14 still-births which gave a mortality rate of 0.57 per thousand total population.

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 0.39.

Deaths and Death-Rate.

The total number of deaths in the district during 1949 (corrected for inward and outward transfers, and including deaths from all causes and at all ages) is 318. viz : 173 males and 145 females. The recorded death-rate being 12.6 per thousand of the estimated population.

The Registrar-General has prepared and issued a Comparability Factor for the year 1949. This factor, which for the Sunderland Rural District is 1.13, enables a more accurate death-rate to be determined. The recorded death-rate is multiplied by this figure, which consequently increases or diminishes the recorded mortality so as to compensate for any advantage or disadvantage disclosed by the assessment of the age and sex distribution of the district.

The corrected Death-rate is 14.2 per thousand estimated population as compared with the death-rate for England and Wales which is 11.7 per thousand total population.

The following Table shows the variation in the birth and death-rates and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1949 :—

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
Sunderland R.D.			
1945.....	22,310	15.1	11.1
1946.....	23,430	21.9	11.6
1947.....	23,870	22.8	10.9
1948.....	24,590	18.5	11.4
1949.....	25,220	18.9	14.2 ^a

a Corrected Death Rate.

Infantile Mortality.

Twenty-two children died during 1949 before attaining the age of one year.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	
Legitimate	13	9	} 22
Illegitimate	—	—	

The death-rate for infants under one year is shown according to the number of live births and legitimacy :—

Death Rate for all infants per thousand live births is 44.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is above the average for England and Wales, which is 32 per thousand related births. The deaths were due to Premature Birth, Birth Injuries, Bronchitis, Enteritis and Pneumonia.

Causes of Death in the Sunderland Rural District during 1949.

The following table shows in detail the number of deaths, male and female, and the causes of death in the district during the year. Compared with the table for the preceding year a slight decrease is recorded in the number of deaths from Cancer and Pneumonia and an increase in the number of deaths from Heart Disease and Tuberculosis.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	11	5	16
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	—	3
Cancer	15	29	44
Diabetes	1	2	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	24	19	43
Heart Disease	53	48	101
Other diseases of the Cir- culatory System	7	9	16
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under two years)	1	3	4
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
Nephritis	2	5	7
Premature Birth	6	2	8
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Suicide	5	—	5
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	3	2	5
All other causes	13	9	22
	173	145	318

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is now operated under the direction of the Durham County Council. All telephone calls or other messages in respect of the services of an ambulance are now directed to East Herrington 3137, which is the ambulance station at Devon Street, New Herrington, covering the parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth, Tunstall, Ford, Offerton and the Herringtons, or Hebburn 32157, which is the ambulance station at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, covering the parish of Hylton. The requirements of the ambulance service are kept under constant review, and such adjustments as experience shows to be required are made from time to time.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological Examinations of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners were undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne 5. According to reports received by the Medical Officer of Health, the following specimens were submitted for examination :—

Bacteriological Examinations for the year 1949 :—

<i>For Tubercle Bacilli.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	2	Positive	1
Negative	4	Negative	10

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year, 528 cases of infectious disease, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified, as compared with 591 cases for the previous year and 554 for 1947.

Scarlet Fever.

The notification of this disease amounted to 17, this figure shows a considerable decrease over the figure for the previous year, which was 51. The disease was of a mild type and caused no anxiety.

Diphtheria.

There was only one case of Diphtheria notified during the year. The efficiency of immunisation of children against Diphtheria is shown by the remarkable way in which the incidence of this disease has decreased during the passed years e.g. 98 cases were notified during 1943, 26 cases during 1946, and only one case during 1949.

The Immunisation Scheme was carried out, as in previous years, successfully. The number of children under 15 years of age immunised in the area up to the 31st December, 1949, was 4,310, and the estimated child population, according to the Registrar-General's figures for mid-1949 was 6,137. These figures show that 71% of the child population are now immunised. The decrease in percentage may be largely due to the influx of children, for whom there is no record of immunisation, from the Sunderland County Borough to their new housing estates which lie within the Sunderland Rural District.

Measles.

252 cases of Measles were notified during the year, a decrease of 67 cases over the preceding year. Measles is a disease which shows periodic increase, cycles every three or five years. Very few children escape infection.

The appended Table sets out, in detail, the notification of infectious disease during the year 1949, together with the ages at which the disease occurred, and the incidence in each of the respective Parishes. The number of cases treated at infectious diseases hospitals is also shown, viz. :—5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 case of Diphtheria, and 1 case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. The remaining number of Scarlet Fever cases were satisfactorily isolated at home.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1	1	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 .....	.....	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	4	7	1	.....	2	4	2	.....
25 .....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....
35	4	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
45	3	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1
55 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
65 & over	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	15	15	3	4	10	5	2	1

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action has been taken under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and bedding has been carried out by your staff, on the removal of all cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and on the termination of the period of isolation, if the patient has been isolated at home. Disinfections were also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis had occurred.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As before, the district was supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Board. Bacteriological Examinations were carried out by the owners. These examinations were necessary in case any water-borne disease had been brought into the district.

At the Herringtons many of the houses are supplied by the National Coal Board from their pumping station situated in Silksworth Lane. This supply was satisfactory.

At Offerton, the supply is taken from a well situated in a field to the north-west of the village. The water is lifted from the well by a pump which is driven by a windmill, and the water is stored in iron storage tanks situated near Offerton Hall. From thence it is led to the various houses in the village. This supply was satisfactory.

It now means that the only area (apart from some scattered farms) not provided with a piped water supply is that of Offerton.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1949, TOGETHER WITH THE AGES AT WHICH THE DISEASE OCCURRED AND THE INCIDENCE IN EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										PARISHES.						Total cases re—moved to Hospital.			
		0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over.	Ford.	Herringtons.	Hylton.	Offerton.		Ryhope.	Silksworth.	Tunstall.
Diphtheria	1				2	1	1	5						3			1	1	3	6	1
Scarlet Fever	17		1			8										1		3	1		5
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1				1	1								2		4		8	9	7	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	30				1		5	2	12	1	5	4	1	1				2	3	1	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberc'sis	7			1					1					1	2			9		4	
Erysipelas	15					1	1	1	6	1	4	7	1					2			
Pneumonia	96	17	6	7	3	7	2	2		7	5	26		1	2	1		45	17	30	
Whooping Cough	107	14	17	16	20	26								1	2			90	7	7	
Measles	252	14	32	51	51	29	73	1	1					15	7	22	3	49	52	104	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1						1		1			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2																		1	
TOTALS	529	47	56	75	77	51	122	11	20	10	14	37	9	23	13	29	4	208	92	160	7

VITAL STATISTICS

**BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949.**

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.
(a) Rates per 1,000 total Population.		(b) Per 1,000	related live births.	
BIRTHS—				
Live Births	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still Births	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.57	0.49	0.59
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polio- encephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
	Rates per	1,000 Live Births.		
DEATHS—				
All causes under 1 year of age	32(b)	37	30	29
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
	Rates per	1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.		
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	8
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.11	
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes	0.71	

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.
PUBLIC CLEANSING—COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL
OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Refuse Collection.

It was again possible to maintain the usual regular collections of house refuse throughout the year. Another very mild winter was experienced, with the result that no delays were encountered arising from adverse climatic conditions, this was no doubt responsible for the absence of serious complaints.

Five vehicles were constantly employed in carrying out the work, and the refuse collection staff consisted of five drivers and sixteen loaders. The rapid development of the Pennywell Estate together with our own Council's comprehensive post-war building effort, has resulted in an enormous increase of work within this department and it is obvious that an additional vehicle will have to be put into operation in the early months of 1950 in order to cope with the extra weight of refuse.

During the year, 601,506 dustbins holding 17,220 tons of refuse were dealt with, this represents a weekly collection and disposal of about 332 tons.

Refuse Disposal.

The refuse from the Parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth and Tunstall (representing approximately 75% of the district's total refuse) is disposed of at Cherryknowle Tip, Ryhope, by the system of "Controlled Tipping." The necessary 'seal' consists, in the main, of soil secured on the site of the tip, the work being effected by three men; one man controlling the layers and tipping, and two men providing the soil for cover. This tip has served the Council's needs for about twelve years and is now nearing completion. The period of time which it will take to complete the site can only be determined by the requirements of the tenant farmer, but the minimum will not be less than twelve months.

During the year, 12,242 tons of refuse were disposed of on this tip. The remainder of the refuse collected in the District was disposed of by a modified form of control or led on to fields at the request of local farmers or market gardeners.

Throughout the whole district, during the year, there was an increased yield of 1,326 tons of refuse, this was due ,principally, to the development of the Pennywell Estate, and to a lesser degree, the development of our own building programme.

Salvage.

The collections of waste paper have again been made with the usual regularity during the year, and it is pleasing to note that the previous year's collections were again improved upon.

In addition to the amount resulting from the sale of waste paper during the year, £8 5s. 3d. was received from the Board of Trade as a bonus for increased waste paper collections.

The amount of revenue received during the year 1949 is shown as follows :—

<i>Material Sold.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper.....	86	6	1	518	11	0
Bonus from Board of Trade				8	5	3
Total	86	6	1	526	16	3

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The appended summary "TABLE A" sets out the number and the nature of inspections made as to nuisances and sanitary defects, contraventions of Byelaws, etc., during the year, together with the number of notices served to remedy such defects.

It will be seen from the summary that the bulk of the notices served have been of an informal character and include letters and verbal intimations on interview.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year, four privies were converted into water-closets, and seven were demolished following upon the vacation of the corresponding dwelling-houses.

The total number of privies existing in the district at the end of the year was 254 as detailed herewith. It will be seen that, of this total, 246 privies are attached to houses which are either in Clearance Areas, or alternatively, conversions are unlikely because of the lack of sewerage facilities. This means that there are eight privies in the whole of the district where conversions to water-closets are possible.

District in which situated.	No. of existing Privies.	In probable Clearance Areas, or Conversions otherwise not likely.	Possible Conversions.
RYHOPE—			
Ryhope Street	65	65	.....
Burdon Street	31	31	.....
Tunstall Street	48	48	.....
Cory Street	14	14	.....
Miscellaneous	6	5	1
SILKSWORTH—			
Farms Cottages	22	18	4
Village School	4	4	.....
Hall Lodge & Cottages	8	8	.....
HERRINGTON—			
Silksworth Lane	1	1	.....
Farms and Cottages	9	7	2
OFFERTON & COXGREEN—			
Farms and Cottages	11	11	.....
Miscellaneous	11	10	1
HYLTON—			
Farms and Cottages	24	24	.....
TOTAL	254	246	8

Complaints Received.

During the year 1949, 652 complaints or requests were received and attended to relating to matters briefly summarised as follows :—

Verminous and dirty premises	15
Choked drains	52
Water supply (defective fittings)	1
Defective drains	10
Drain Tests	203
Defective waste pipes	3
Defective W.C's. privies, etc.	12
Defective dustbins	166
General housing defects	91
Overcrowding	6
Rat infestations	15
Offensive smells	20
Requests to remove refuse	1
Houses and bedding to disinfect.....	26
Offensive accumulations.....	3
Requests to inspect food	22
Miscellaneous	6

Total **652**

**TABLE A—SUMMARY—SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL
REPORT.
INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES SERVED 1949.**

	No. of inspections during year.	No. of defects or con- traventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects		78	78	33	36	33	.....
Defective Food- store	378	18	18	8	7	7	.....
Dampness		56	56	22	28	25	.....
Overcrowding	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
NUISANCES—							
Dirty or verminous premises	34	15	15	15	.....	.....	.....
Choked drains	396	380	380	380	.....	.....	.....
Various	11	6	6	6	.....	.....	.....
Offensive Accumulations	38	24	24	24	.....	.....	.....
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient (defective fittings)	5	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....
Unsatisfactory	3	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....
DRAINAGE—							
Insufficient	41	34	34	34	.....	.....	.....
Defective	26	12	12	5	9	8	.....
New drains testing etc.	203	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New drains provided	5993	yards	4in.	drain.			
SANITARY CONVEN- IENCES—	40	yards	6in.	drain			
Insufficient	21	15	15	6	9	9	.....
Insanitary ashpits & dustbins	208	166	166	146	20	20	.....
New W.C. basins	6	4	4	2	2	2	.....
Shops & Stores	109	19	19	16	.....	.....	.....
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	80	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....
Slaughterhouses	689	18	18	18	.....	.....	.....
Offensive Trades	107	19	19	19	.....	.....	.....
Workshops & Work- places	18	4	4	4	.....	.....	.....
Licensed Premises	10	5	5	5	.....	.....	.....
Food M'fg. Premises	56	13	13	12	1	.....	1
Bakehouses	11	4	4	4	.....	.....	.....
Canteens	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rat Infestations	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cinemas	4	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....
Factories	36	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....
Fried Fish Shops	37	9	9	9	.....	.....	.....
Ice-cream Premises	17	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS	2590	922	922	790	112	104	1

The following summary shows the main types of work done or improvements effected as the result of inspections made and subsequent action taken :—

SUMMARY OF WORKS EFFECTED, 1949.

Housing Defects.

Repairs to roofs and spouts	24
„ walls and pointing	22
„ chimneys, firegrates, ovens	21
„ windows and sash cords	22
„ floors, stairs, doors and woodwork	36
„ wash-houses, coppers and furnaces	10
„ wall and ceiling plaster	30
„ yards and outhouses	23
„ food stores	13
Dampness remedied	27

Nuisances.

Dirty and verminous premises cleansed and disinfested	15
Obstructed drains cleared	380
Accumulations removed	24

Water Supply.

Burst pipes and defective taps repaired	3
Separate internal supplies provided	3

Drainage.

Wash-up sinks provided	4
Defective drains repaired	46
Sink waste pipes repaired	3
Yards paved or repaired	34

Sanitary Conveniences.

Privy ash-pits abolished	10
W.C's. provided	4
„ repaired	15
Dustbins provided	166
Privies repaired	2

Public Conveniences.

Routine inspections have been made during the year to all public conveniences in the district, with a view to ascertaining the existence of nuisances which may arise

from time to time. The conveniences are thoroughly cleansed each day (including Sundays) by workmen on the staff of the Health Department.

Factories.

The following tables in the form required by the Home Office show the inspections made of factories with mechanical power, factories without mechanical power, and other premises together with defects found and remedied during the year.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

PREMISES. (1)	NUMBER OF		
	<i>Inspections.</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices.</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i> (4)
Factories with mechanical power	23	5	.....
Factories without mechanical power	7	1	.....
Other Premises under the Act including works buildings and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises	4	1	.....
TOTAL	34	7	.....

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Re-medied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.I.)	3	3	.....	.....
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
Insufficient .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unsuitable or defective	2	1	.....	.....
Not separate for sexes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Offences	2	2	.....	.....
TOTAL	7	6	.....	.....

Shops and Offices.

A total of 97 shops were inspected during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops, sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences and other arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers.

42 were found to comply with the requirements of the Act, and 26 were found not to comply in certain respects as summarised below :—

<i>Defects.</i>	<i>Number of shops where found.</i>
VENTILATION insufficient (no through ventilation)	20
MEANS FOR MAINTAINING A REASONABLE TEMPERATURE not provided or inadequate	23
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION :—	
No W.C. provided and no alternative arrangements for use of W.C.....	15
W.C. used in common by occupants of two or more shops or shops and dwelling-houses	10
Separate W.C. accommodation for sexes not provided (shops where over 4 of both sexes using 1 W.C. included).....	1
W.C. defective	4

Smoke Abatement.

The Ryhope Colliery Spoil Heap continues to burn, but it can be said that every effort is made and all practicable steps are taken to keep the burning portions on the heap under control. This is still being done by means of fine water sprays, which are portable, and can be transferred immediately to places requiring the most urgent attention.

This spoil heap is frequented at regular intervals by the Ministry of Health's Alkali Works, etc. Inspector, and he has expressed his satisfaction upon the progress made to control the spoil heap.

A few complaints of a minor character were received in the department during the year, in respect to this smoke nuisance.

Swimming Baths.

There are no such baths in the area, either public or privately owned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year, eleven complaints were received in respect to bed bug infestations. Of this number five were in council houses and six in private houses.

Vigorous efforts are still being made by this department for the complete eradication of bed bugs. This can only be successful with the full co-operation of the tenants.

Both owners and occupiers are encouraged to seek advice and assistance from the department. They themselves are made responsible for the stripping of walls, removal of skirting moulds, picture rails, etc., this is followed up by spraying with a reliable insecticide by a Health Department employee.

During the year Zaldecide containing D.D.T. was used for spraying.

Drainage.

A considerable amount of work has again been incurred in the Health Department during the year by the Council's post-war building programme.

The various housing schemes in progress throughout the district have claimed the time of the inspectors as soon as the respective drainage systems became ready for inspection. In addition to this, much time is devoted to the arrangement, inspection and testing of drains belonging to private owners.

All main and branch drains were tested by means of the "Water test" in order to verify that they were sound and watertight.

Throughout the year, 5,993 yards of 4 in. drain and 40 yards of 6 inch drain were tested, involving some 203 visits.

Rodent Control.

During the year, maintenance treatments were carried out on the whole of the sewer systems in the district, under the conditions set out in circular "N.S. 19 Local Authorities," for the purpose of attempting to exterminate the rodent population. The methods used were those prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Rodent Division).

In addition to the work on the sewers, three treatments were undertaken on each of the three refuse tips in the district. The results were outstandingly good, bearing in mind that each refuse tip bears the mark of a major infestation.

Treatments were also effected at business premises and in dwelling-houses throughout the district. In the case of business premises, a charge was made against each owner, sufficient to cover normal expenses.

During the year, a survey was carried out in order to ascertain the degree of rodent infestation throughout the area. The results showed that only isolated infestations were existing and these received immediate attention.

The work has been effected by a rodent operator, who acts under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors.

Housing.

Houses erected during the year :-

	<i>With State Assistance.</i>	<i>Unaided.</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) By Local Authority	236	.....	} 243
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	.....	7	

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	767
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,084

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	755
2.	Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	647
3.	Action under Statutory Powers.	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	111
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	104
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	.....
		104

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | Nil. |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit..... | Nil. |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The inspection and supervision of the usual commodities of food intended for human consumption has again received the concentrated attention of the department. A considerable amount of the normal available time is spent on this very important branch of the work.

The inspection of all meat, both home-killed and imported, is carried out in the Ryhope Slaughterhouse and Allocation Centre, for the Seaham Urban District, as well as our own district. Details of this work can be found later in the report.

Milk Supply.

During the year, 80 visits were made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, for the purpose of ensuring that milk is produced, stored and distributed to the public in a clean condition and free from pathogenic organisms.

The inspectors usually found the premises to be in a reasonably clean condition and regularly cleansed and limewashed. It was found necessary upon 7 occasions to draw the attention of retailers to contraventions committed by employees, e.g. insufficient care to personal hygiene.

As from 1st October, 1949, the responsibility for the supervision of the production of milk was transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This means that local authorities are not now required to do this work, and only the future can tell whether this step has been one of real progress.

At the 31st September, 1949, the following were shown to be on the registers :—

Dairy Farms and Cowkeepers	25
Dairies and Milkshops	38
Milk Purveyors who sell milk in sealed and stoppered bottles only	16

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year, six samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. The following indicates the results of the samples :—

No. of samples taken	6
No. of samples examined for Coliform Bacilli	6
No. of samples to which the Methylene Blue Test was applied.....	6

	<i>Not</i>		
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Methylene Blue Test	3	3	6
Coliform Test	5	1	6

Ice Cream.

There are only three premises in the district where ice cream is manufactured for sale, in addition, other premises have been registered as satisfactory for the sale of this commodity of food.

All such premises are visited regularly, especially during the summer season, in order to ascertain that the ice-cream is manufactured, stored and sold under hygienic conditions, and that all utensils are sterilised and kept free from contamination.

The three respective occupiers of the premises in which the ice cream is manufactured are always willing to co-operate in order that this food can be processed in a hygienic manner. They have each provided new and up-to-date machines for this purpose. after receiving advice from this department.

Precautions against Contamination of Food.

During the year considerable progress has been made in respect to premises used for the manufacture, preparation or sale of food intended for human consumption. The extent of this progress has, of course, only been possible by the intense and willing co-operation of the food traders throughout the district.

One can assume that the sudden and very welcome awakening of the public in respect to food hygiene, has had its re-actions amongst the food traders, with the result that, when routine visits have been made to food premises, the advice given has been almost instantaneously applied by many of the tradesmen.

Towards the end of the year, the Council resolved to inaugurate a Voluntary Food Traders' Guild and accordingly called a meeting of all food traders in the district. At this meeting, presided over by the Chairman of the Council, the details of the Guild, its purpose, and method of operation were fully explained to the food traders present, and they were asked to consider and approve Basic Codes of Practice for Food Trades.

The Basic Codes were accepted in principle, and food traders were chosen as representatives, along with an equivalent number from the Council to form a Guild Committee, whose main function would be to discuss and devise means of propagating the scheme by the voluntary co-operation of the food trades, and how by such means the standard of hygiene could be improved.

The District Council have resolved to issue to all satisfactory food traders in the area, a suitably framed Hygiene Certificate. It is hoped that the public will come to recognise such certificates as relating to premises whereon they are assured that the conduct of the business is in conformity with the Basic Code of Hygiene as approved by the Council. The certificates are liable to be withdrawn if the Trader persistently defaults in his methods against the Code.

As mentioned previously food traders have co-operated extremely well as is indicated by the following summary of work effected under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Water supply provided	13
Wash hand basins installed	31
Gas or electric water heaters installed.....	37
Walls repaired	19
Walls re-decorated	20
Ceilings provided	5
Ceilings re-decorated	18
New windows provided	3
Windows and doors repaired	9
New drains laid	10
Premises cleansed	11
Drains improved	2
New preparation rooms provided	2
New floors laid.....	6
W.C's repaired	3
New manufacturing plant installed	3
Artificial light provided	1
Additional W.C's	3
Ventilation improved	1
Dustbins supplied	3

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The usual inspection of all carcasses was again maintained during the year, on the principle that the essence of good meat inspection in the matter of ensuring a safe meat supply to the public, is that it must be regular and carried out as a matter of routine.

As mentioned previously, a considerable proportion of the normal available time is devoted to this very important branch of the department. The inspection of meat is all carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse, Ryhope, which served our own District and the Seaham Urban District, a total population of over 50,000.

The work of meat inspection, if carried out conscientiously with 100% inspection, inevitably entails the working of long hours, many of which fall outside the normal hours of duty (including Sundays and Bank Holidays).

It is again very pleasing to report that excellent co-operation exists between the Council's Meat Inspectors and the Government Officials in charge at the Slaughterhouse.

All cattle slaughtered in the Ryhope Slaughterhouse during the year were inspected especially to ascertain the presence of “*Cysticercus Bovis*” as recommended in circular M.F./5/48. Although a proportion of carcasses inspected throughout the country have been found to be affected with this disease, it is pleasing to be able to again report that so far no trace has been found in any of the carcasses in this area.

All animals slaughtered are inspected before being exposed for sale, and no carcase or organs allowed to leave the Slaughterhouse without examination.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1949 was 10,037, this being considerably more than the number slaughtered in 1948. A total of 689 visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected is set out below :—

MONTH.	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.	Total.
January	99	3	.....	665	3	770
February	60	.....	.....	565	.....	625
March	107	13	.....	566	5	691
April }	245	29	.....	367	3	644
May }						
June	125	5	.....	133	.....	263
July	223	3	.....	253	.....	479
August	276	7	.....	592	.....	875
September	235	5	.....	978	.....	1,218
October	200	11	.....	1,390	.....	1,601
November	316	18	.....	1,819	.....	2,153
December	89	5	.....	624	.....	718
TOTALS	1,975	99	.....	7,952	11	10,037

In addition to the animals, as shown above, slaughtered in the Government Slaughterhouse, 368 pigs were slaughtered in various parts of the District under the Self-Suppliers Scheme of the Ministry of Food.

They were all inspected before being used for human consumption.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year 1949 is shown in the manner required each year by the Ministry of Health and produced herewith :—

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows.	Cows. Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed if known.....	1,975	99	7,952	11
Number inspected	1,975	99	7,952	11
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	9	.....
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1, 92	49	164	.....
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	55.3%	54.5%	2%	.....
TUBERCULOSIS				
Whole carcasses condemned	2	5	.....	.....
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	263	48	.....	.....
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.4%	53.5%	.....	.....

As a result of the inspections at the Government^t Slaughterhouse, various diseased or unsound conditions were discovered as detailed in the following tables.

The amount of Tuberculosis is dealt with in TABLE 1, and other diseased conditions in TABLE 2.

TABLE 1.
TUBERCULOSIS IN FOOD ANIMALS.

PORTION DEALT WITH.	In Bovines.		In Pigs.	
	Number Con- demned.	Weight	Number Con- demned.	Weight
MEAT				
Entire carcase and all organs	7	259½ Sts.	.....	.....
Forequarters	4	40½,,	.....	.....
Briskets	4	4¼,,	.....	.....
Skirts	12	3,,	.....	.....
Udders	1	2,,	.....	.....
Total Weight of Meat .....	.....	309¼,,	.....	.....
OFFALS.				
Heads	60	140 Sts.	.....	.....
Sets of Lungs	154	121,,	.....	.....
Livers	25	25,,	.....	.....
Stomachs	18	41,,	.....	.....
Intestines	18	9,,	.....	.....
Mesenteries.....	12	18,,	.....	.....
Hearts	5	1,,	.....	.....
Total Weight of Offal .....	.....	355,,	.....	.....

TABLE 2.

OTHER DISEASED OR UNSOUND CONDITIONS IN FOOD ANIMALS.

Diseased or Unsound Conditions.	Meat Condemned.			Edible Offals Condemned.					
	No. of Whole Carcases.	Parts of Carcases.	Wght.	Heads.	Sets of Lungs	Livers.	Half-livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs & Intestines.
CATTLE.			Stones						
Abscesses		Sirloin and Flank	1 4	.....	.....	113	.....	.....	6
		Skirts	5 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mastitis		Udders	21 34 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cirrhosis						993			
Flukes	.....						319		
Pleurisy					39				
Angioma						10			
Pericarditis								2	
Peritonitis									2
Actinomycosis	..			5					
Bruising		Portions of Beef	12 55 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Splashing	.....	Portion of Beef	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bone-Taint	.....	Hindquarter of Beef	1 13 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Portions of Beef	3 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Injury	.....	Portion of Beef	1 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fever (General)	2		68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
General Dropsy and Bruising	1		38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Emaciation	2		59 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
do.	1 bull		37	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total weight of Beef and No. of Offals	.....	..	324	5	39	1116	319	2	8
SHEEP AND LAMBS									
Moribund	5		21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fevered	1		4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dropsical	2		8 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Emaciation	1		1 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inflammation	.....	Portions of Mutton	2 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Abscesses		Portion of Mutton	1 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Injury	..	Hindquarters of Mutton	2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bruising	..	Portion of Mutton	1 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total weight of Mutton	.....	.....	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Total weight of home-killed meat and offals condemned on account of Tuberculosis and Other Diseased or Unsound Conditions :—

Beef	633 Stones.	Beef Offals	1,512 stones
Mutton	46 „	Mutton	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	679 Stones.		1,512 stones
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Inspection of Frozen and Chilled Meat and Offals.

Approximately 80% of all frozen and chilled carcasses, including cases and bags of offals, are examined at the Government Slaughterhouse, before being distributed by the Manager of the Wholesale Meat Supply Association to the various buying groups. As a result of these inspections the following quantities of imported meat were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

<i>On account of</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight Stones</i>
Bone-taint	4 Hindquarters of Beef	47½
do.	7 portions of Hindquarter Beef	44¾
do.	1 Fore-quarter of Beef (Bone-less)	10½
Bruising.	Portion of Hindquarter Beef	1¼
Hyaline Degeneration.	Portion of Hindquarter Beef	2¼
		<hr/>
	Total weight of Imported Meat	106¼
		<hr/>

Total weight of Home-killed and Imported Meat and Offals condemned :—

2,191 Stones.
106¼ „
<hr/>
2,297¼ Stones.
<hr/>

(14 Tons, 7 Cwts. 1 Stone 7 lbs.)

The following foodstuffs were also found to be unfit for human consumption :—

116 x 6 lbs. Tins Corned Beef.	16 x 12 ozs. Tins Corned Beef.
28 Tins Minced Beef Loaf.	181 Tins Evaporated Milk.
108 „ Condensed Milk	85 „ Tomatoes.
42 „ Peas.	16 „ Pork Brawn.
10 „ Beans.	12 „ Pilchards.
11 „ Scotch Broth	19 „ Sardines
17 „ Grapefruit.	11 „ Soup.
9 „ Salmon	7 „ Plums.
3 „ Marmalade.	2 „ Cod Roll.
4 „ Parsnips.	2 „ Fruit Salad
3 „ Potted Meat	2 „ Tongue.
12 „ Grapes.	5 „ Veal Loaf.
5 „ Crayfish	5 „ Meat Lunch.
36 „ Stewed Steak	5 „ Fruit.
2 „ Corned Beef Hash	14 „ Danish Pork.
2 „ Jam.	2 „ Pineapples.
1 „ Meat and Gravy.	1 „ Apples.
1 „ Pork Sausage.	1 „ Peaches.
1 „ Oranges.	1 „ Spaghetti.
1 „ Mixed Vegetables.	1 „ Herrings.
21 Jars Onions.	2 Jars Paste.
1 „ Cabbage	3 „ Beetroot.
25 „ Pickles.	6 „ Sauce.
148 „ Jam.	25 Pkts. Jellies.
22 Pkts. Creamola Pudding.	1 „ Quaker Oats.
72 „ Beef Sausage.	48 „ Pork Sausage.
132 Lbs. Currants.	24 $\frac{1}{4}$ Lbs. Butter.
30 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Margarine.	9 „ Lard.
41 „ Bacon.	214 „ Cheese.
8 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ Ham.	50 „ Dehydrated
48 Mutton Pies.	Potatoes.
6 Stones Fish.	144 Pork Pies.

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trade carried on in the area is that of tripe boiling.

The premises upon which this trade is performed are under the control of the Ryhope & Silksworth Industrial and Provident Society and are attached to the Government Slaughterhouse.

The regular inspection of the premises has been maintained during the year, involving some 107 visits.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MATTHEW B. H. CHURCHILL, M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

